From: New England Jewish Labor Committee
To: Robert McWatters
Subject: Rally for Harvard University Dining Workers on October 13th!
Date: Monday, October 10, 2016 8:03:55 AM

Solidarity Rally
Thursday, October 13
2:30 pm - 5:30 pm
at the
Cambridge Common

1667 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge

for
Harvard University Dining Hall Service Workers who are on strike

Please join us in supporting Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS) workers as they strike for fair wages and healthcare.

If you want more information or want to hold a JLC sign on October 13th, please contact us at NewEnglandJLC@jewishlabor.org or 617 227-0888

After months of negotiations, Harvard dining workers have gone on strike in demand of a sustainable yearly income and good health insurance.

HUDS employs 750 workers who are represented by UNITE HERE Local 26. Harvard students, including members of the JLC's Campus Initiative continue to support and organize with Harvard dining workers for a fair and sustainable

contract.

Harvard's labor practices indicate massive inequality at the univeristy; its endowment reached $37.6 billion, the highest it has ever been, and the school has amassed $7 billion dollars in fundraising this year alone.

Yet HUDS workers make, on average, just under $34,000 per year, and many face seasonal unemployment in the summer when the school's resident population falls. The union wants a $35,000 minimum annual salary for full-time workers. According to the MIT Living Wage Calculator, this wage falls below what is required to support more than one person living in the Boston area.

Furthermore, the university is attempting to change workers' health insurance plan. Under the new insurance policy, the cost of emergency room visits would more than double. Inpatient hospital services and outpatient surgeries, which are covered under the current plan, would cost $100 each. Despite the testimony of many Harvard Medical School students on the destructive impact of the proposed new insurance, the University has not changed their plans.

Read more from the Boston Globe, Harvard Magazine, and the Harvard Crimson.

The strike started on October 5th. Pickets are taking place all day every day for the duration of the strike at more than twenty Harvard campus dining hall locations. You are welcome to join picket lines at anytime.

Thanks so much for your support,
Marya Axner
Jewish Labor Committee, New England

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